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COMMANDANT OF THE COAST GUARD NATIONAL RETIREE COUNCIL

You may have seen the recent issuance of [Commandant Instruction 1800.5D](#) which outlines the **Commandant of the Coast Guard National Retiree Council Program**. I realize how busy your pace is during these times of increased operations. But I feel this is important enough that I ask you to take a moment to read the instruction and then to reflect on the value of our military retirees and annuitants. As members of the Coast Guard family, they too, are impacted by current events. Many are interested in helping wherever they might add value, others can offer useful insights from their own wartime service, and some simply want to share ties of friendship and camaraderie with those who continue the Coast Guard's proud traditions of service.

At the recent meeting of the National Council, seeds were planted for collaboration with the Recruiting Command to develop a strategic plan for "Retirees-as-Recruiting-Force-Multipliers." I'm very excited about the potential this offers to our accession efforts. Look for more information in the coming months as this joint venture develops. Retirees contribute significantly to the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) as coaches and mentors to those reaching the end of their careers. There's nothing more beneficial than hearing about the pitfalls, while also collecting good ideas, in preparing for this significant lifestyle transition.

In addition to the National Council, there are local organizations of retirees. If there's a Regional Retiree Council in your area, please make an effort to open communications and find opportunities for mutual support and dialogue. Regardless of affiliation with a Regional Council, retirees in your area may still be interested in activities sponsored by the CPOA, CWOA, CGEA, spouses' clubs and officers' associations. As you tighten security at your units, find ways to ensure retirees are able to access these events as well as key places such as CGES stores, the PERSRU, Health Care clinic, the Chapel, or other community services you provide that they depend on as part of their normal routines.

A click on this link [Coast Guard Retiree Home Page](#) gives you points of contact as well as a copy of the new instruction. And if you have a chance, thank a retiree for their service.

Regards,

RADM Kenneth T. Venuto
Ken Venuto

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